

Canada S7 - The Shawinigan Water & Power Co.

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This article was developed in answer to an article published in the *Perforator* No.124 (first quarter 2004) by Russell O. Sampson titled "Some Perfin Puzzles - the lost pin of pattern S7".

The listing of Canadian stamp issues beside each of the three illustrations (showing a complete or incomplete pattern) deserves to be carefully scrutinized by everyone. Following are some of the questions that came to my mind while considering these three variations:

- What was the lifespan of the single-die perforator?
- When did the first pin of the pattern disappear?
- When did the pattern with 3 missing pins show up?
- Was the one-die perforator repaired and, if so, when? or,
- Was it simply replaced by another perforator? and, finally,
- Is it possible that 3 single-die perforators were in operation during the period between 1923-1927?

First, I have to explain why the illustration of the S7 pattern shown in "Canadian Stamps With Perforated Initials: Fourth Ed." has one hole missing. In the early 1980's at the time the authors of the perfin handbook, J. C. Johnson and G. Tomasson, were gathering information and copies of the patterns to be illustrated for publication, I was working as a film stripper, preparing artwork, articles, and photos for printing, which gave me access to specialized equipment for contact printing on film or paper. I offered Jon my services to supply the patterns I could for the handbook. At that time, my relatively small collection did not have the rare "A" or "B" rated perfins nor a complete punch of S7.

Now, to study a perfin pattern, the best way is to enlarge it 4 or 8 times. Then it really shows the imperfections of the punched holes and it could even reveal, in some cases, fakes or forgeries.

This is only a preliminary report with lots of observations, facts, and unconfirmed allegations. Only after reports of the S7 perfins in your possession arrive, giving me a list of issues, the position of each one, the cancels found, a photocopy of the backside of the stamp showing the pattern, and your comments, will I be able to finalize this study. When referring to any one of the 3 illustrations I will call them S7a, S7b or S7c to clearly identify each and allow the study of each of the patterns.

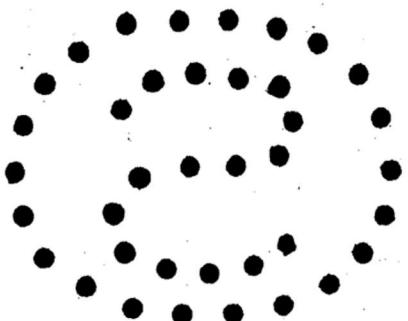
General Observations:

- 40% of the perfins studied are cancelled from Montreal, head office of the company. Most of these cancels are the duplex "D", complete or partial impression.
- The perfin groups S7a and S7b together represent approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the total number of perfins studied (28/57)
- S7c, an incomplete die with 3 missing pin holes, was used for the longest period of time, between 1923 and 1927, 5 years (29/57 patterns seen).

The variations and issues in which they appear:

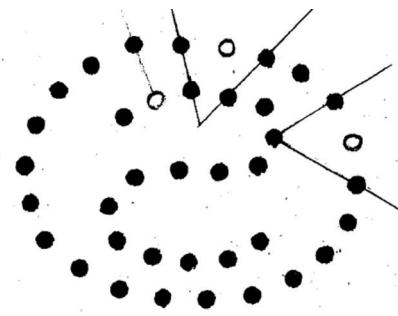
S7a - Complete pattern found in the different issues (15/57 of the perfins seen):

- 107b-3 (single from booklet No.9)
- 107i-1
- 107ii-3, 107ii-5
- 108-7
- 108i-7 vert.pair, 108i-7 dupl.
- 108ii-1
- 108iii-3, 108iii-5
- 109-1
- 109ii-7
- 112-5
- 112 i-5



S7b - Pattern with 3 holes missing (13/57 of the perfins seen):

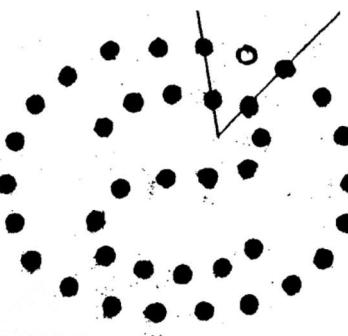
- 107-1, 107-8 vert.pair
- 107ii-5
- 107ci-3 (single from booklet No.6)
- 109-2, 109-3
- 109a-8 (single from booklet 8 or 10)
- 109ii-2, 109ii-3, 109ii-4
- 112-3/5 mirror pair.



S7c - Pattern with 1 hole missing (29/57 of the perfins seen):

- 107a-1, 107a-5, 107a-7
- 107ii-1

- 107iv-1, 107iv-3
- 107v-3, 107v-3X, 107v-5, 107v-7X
- 109-3, 109-7
- 109i-1, 109i-3, 109i-5, 109i-5X, 109i-5X dupl., 109i-7
- 109ii-7X
- 112ii-3, 112ii-7X
- 112iv-1, 112iv-3, 112iv-5, 112iv-5X, 112iv-7, 112iv-7 diagonal punch
- 118-7
- 144-7



Number of stamps perforated by each of the 3 patterns (\$7a, S7b, S7c) in the 6 different issues studied here (Note that Unitrade Catalog numbers are used).:

	107	a	b	ci	i	ii	iv	v	108	i	ii	iii	109	i	ii	112	i	ii	iv	118	144	Total	
S7a					1	2				1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1			15	
S7b	3					1								3		4		2					13
S7c		3	1	1		1	2	4					2	6			1	6	1	1		29	
Total	3	3	1	1	1	4	2	4	1	3	1	2	6	6	5	1	3	2	6	1	1	57	

Issue dates of the stamps studied so far
(again, catalogue #'s are from the *Unitrade - Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*):

- 104 - Last printing of this issue was 1920, exact date unknown to me
- 106 - Last printing of this issue was between 1923 and 1925
- 107, 107i, 107ii (wet printing) were issued June 6, 1922
- 107iv, 107v (dry printing) were issued between 1923 and 1925 (used in 1925-26)
- 107a - Issued in October 1924
- 108, 108i, 108ii - wet ptg. August 6, 1918 -- 108iii dry ptg. August 6, 1923
- 109 Issued December 18, 1923 -- 109i in 1924 -

- 109ii in 1923 -- 109a in 1923
- 112 Issued February 2, 1922 -- 112i December 10, 1923 -- 112iii February 12, 1924 -- 112iv in 1925
- 118 Issued August 1, 1925
- 144 Issued June 27, 1927

Early and late usage of the pattern S7a-b-c:

- S7a (complete pattern):
 - Earliest: August 6, 1918 (#108)
 - Latest: October 1924 (#107a)
- S7b (with 3 holes missing):
 - Earliest: June 6, 1922 (#107)
 - Latest: October 1924 (#107a)

- S7c with one hole missing:
 - Earliest: June 6, 1922 (# 107)
 - Latest: June 29, 1927 (#144).

Mike Dicketts:

- questioned the S.7 pattern in *The Perforator*, November 1983. His illustration shows four complete or partial punches of S7 on a vertical pair of Sc#107. These are cancelled with the familiar Montreal duplex "D" within a ten bar killer. Only a portion of the CDS shows with, unfortunately, the date being missing. Of interest is the fact that on close examination all four impressions of the perfins show slightly different positioning with relation to the stamp. Further three show a missing pin at the same location in the oval around the S. This strongly suggests that these punches were made from a single die perforator. Perhaps others have material that confirms this speculation?

Remarks:

- S7a is only found on 1924 or earlier issues.
- The U.S. pattern S12 shown in their catalog is complete.
- Can anybody tell me if the G.B. pattern is also complete?
- I did not see any of the following issues -104, -106, -111, -112a, -119, or -120: all of them should be of the type a - being issued before 1923.
- S7b is the only type to punch the stamps sideways in positions 2, 4 and 8. 6/13 of this type show one of these positions.
- S7c is the only group with double patterns or impressions (8/29 examples of this type.)

Question:

Can a single-die perforator place the pattern reading upright on a vertical strip of 4 or in a vertical pair? Anybody with an answer...?

Cancel date ranges for S7 perfinned stamps:

Pattern	Earliest date	Latest date
S7a	December 9, 19231924
S7b	January 26, 1924	in 1926/1927
S7c1924	November 29, 1926

Note: All three types were cancelled in Montreal between 1924 and 1926.

Other cancels seen:

S7a - 107i-1 Montreal duplex cancel, the dater showing 1924
 - 108-7 Cancel "Coutts" n-145 used in Montreal between 1923 and 1925
 - 108i-7 vert. pair – same cancel as 108-7
 - 108ii-1 Cancel December 9, 1923

S7b - 107-8 vert. pair; cancel – Montreal, December 22, 1924
 - 107ii-5 Cancel – Montreal, January 26, 1924
 - 109-2 Coutts No. F15 used in Montreal 1924-1927
 - 109-3 Coutts No. 145 used in Montreal 1923-1925
 - 109-8 Cancel – Montreal March 26, 1924
 - 109ii-4 Coutts No. 145 used in Montreal 1923-1925

- 109ii-7X Coutts No. H383 used in Montreal 1926-1927

S7c -107a-5 Cancel 1924
 - 107b-1 1924 Montreal duplex
 - 107ci-5 Montreal roller
 - 107ii-1 Coutts F20 used in Montreal 1924-1927
 - 107iv & 107v dry print – used 1925-1926
 - 109-5 Cancel 1925
 - 112iv-1 Cancel 1926
 112v-5 Cancel November 29, 1926
 112iv-7 Cancel 1926

References:

Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials

Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps

The Admiral Issues by Marler.